ART:
MAHIRO SATOU
ORIGINAL STORY:
JIN (SHIZEN NO TEKI P)
CHARACTER DESIGN:
SIDU, WANNYANPOO

KAGEROU DAZE

12

KAGEROU DAZE 12

KAGEROU DAZE 12

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CHARACTERS

SHINTARO

A teenage boy who's been holed up in his house for the past two years.

MOMO

An ultra-popular singer with the "drawing eyes" ability. Shintaro's sister. Died after the "clearing eyes" snake dropped her off a building.

KANO

Friends with Kido and Seto since childhood. Possesses the "deceiving eyes" ability.

MARIE

A young Medusa whose "locking eyes" ability lets her freeze people in their tracks.

HIBIYA

A boy who's come to visit the neighborhood with Hiyori. Controlled by the "clearing eyes" snake.

AYANO

A girl whose "favoring eyes" ability lets her directly transmit feelings and emotions to others. She separated from Kano and the rest after trying to kill Marie.

ENE
(Takane Enomoto)

An innocent, naive "digital girl" who's taken up residence in Shintaro's computer.

KIDO

Leader of the Mekakushi-dan. Possesses the "concealing eyes" ability. Killed when attacked by the "clearing eyes" snake.

SETO

A young man engaged in assorted part-time work. Possesses the "stealing eyes" ability.

KONOHA
(Haruka Kokonose)

A friend of Takane and Shintaro back when he was still Haruka. After an illness took his life, he worked with the Mekakushi-dan under the name Konoha.

HIYORI

A girl who's come to visit Shintaro's neighborhood. A big fan of Momo. Infused with the "focusing eyes" ability.

STORY

The tale of the events of August 14 and 15.

Shintaro and Momo run into a pair of children, Hibiya and Hiyori. They soon become friends, but after relaying a cryptic message to Momo over the phone, Hiyori disappears. They later discover Hibiya alone and unconscious, but he has lost his memory of the recent past. On the same day, Shintaro and Momo come across Kido and Kano, who claim to be part of a secret organization. They are also pursuing Hibiya and Hiyori, and soon the entire group's goals, destinies, and anxieties crisscross—and it's all connected by a supernatural phenomenon known as "Kagerou Daze."

As Hibiya searches for the missing Hiyori, a mysterious girl approaches him. Using her ability to impart memories and emotions directly into anyone she wants, she reveals the truth behind the Kagerou Daze. She fears a snake with the "clearing eyes" ability is attempting to unite all the snakes that gave the rest of this group their own eerie skills into a single entity—and now it might be here, in the "worst possible form."

When Kano and Momo do find Hiyori, the scene is like something out of their worst nightmares: Hiyori, covered in blood, standing in front of a lifeless Kido. As he carries the fainted Momo back, Kano tells Ene about the lives of the Mekakushi-dan and how the snake has affected all of them.

After awakening to their skills, Kido, Kano, and Seto spent their early years at a juvenile home. Ayaka, a researcher studying the Medusa myths of the past, decided to adopt the three of them, making them siblings to her own daughter, Ayano.

Kido, Kano, Seto, and Ayano form the Mekakushi-dan, living as brothers and sisters despite any real blood relation. They are later joined by Marie, who stays on after suddenly being brought to their doorstep.

Once she realizes Marie is the child of a Medusa and that the children's abilities might affect their well-being—and their lives—Ayano resolves to protect her brothers and sisters.

However, en route to Marie's home in search of clues that might explain the children's abilities, Ayano and her parents are killed in an accident. Swallowed up by the Kagerou Daze, Ayano gains her own eye ability along with an insight into the true nature of the Kagerou Daze. In light of what she has learned, Ayano determines the only way to put an end to the tragedy is to kill Marie. The other children vehemently refuse, but she presses on, chasing after the "clearing eyes" snake.

Meanwhile, Shintaro attempts to track down Momo, who has gone off to search for Hiyori. Kano tells him that the "focusing eyes" ability has housed itself within Hiyori, not Hibiya. Just as he does, Shintaro spots Momo falling off of the building he's in—as Hibiya's maniacal laughter echoes from the up on the roof. The "clearing eyes" snake that killed Kido and Momo had instilled itself inside Hibiya, not Ayano.

As the group reels from Momo's death, Konoha appears. He apparently doesn't remember Ene, who then reveals that she was once Takane Enomoto, a friend of Konoha's back when he still lived as Haruka Kokonose.

Making a promise to attend school together, Shintaro leaves the hospital, but it isn't long before Haruka's illness finally takes him. Takane, who had been unable to see him before his death, is so shocked that she throws herself off the hospital roof. Shintaro becomes a recluse in his own bedroom, only to be visited by Takane's consciousness (under the name "Ene") in his computer...

Haruka met Takane at the hospital where he had been admitted for the management of his terminal illness. Playing video games together, they became fast friends, but just as Haruka felt he at last had something to live for, Takane was discharged. Shortly after, her vacancy is filled by Shintaro, who's admitted after a nasty fall. Despite Shintaro's distrust for other people, Haruka suggests they play a game, and the two become friends. Takane, seeing how well they get along, is too emotionally torn to see her friend.

With Shintaro paralyzed by Momo's death, the out-of-control "clearing eyes" snake has a fateful encounter with Ayano...!

The snake reveals its intentions to Ayane. It and all the other snakes are obligated to fulfill their duty to make people's wishes come true. This being the case, "clearing eyes" has sought to sow despair, the root emotion driving all wishes, in order to prevent the snakes from disappearing. Marie's deep desperation has attracted the snake, who intends to make her its master.

As the snake declares that no one can stop this tale of despair, Konoha, Ene, and Hiyori arrive on the scene. The tables seem to have turned in their favor, but the "clearing eyes" snake throws itself into the path of an oncoming truck as it flees—and a smiling, black-haired Konoha emerges from the flames.

Hiyori and Ayano visit Kano and the rest in their hideout. Hiyori's optimism restores Kano's spirits, and she suggests that he speak with Ayano himself. Realizing their feelings are the same, Kano and Ayano patch things up, and they decide to work out their future strategy together. Ayano suggests using Marie's Medusa abilities to their advantage.

Meanwhile, Shintaro is obsessed with securing revenge for his sister, Momo's, death. The sight drives Ene to open up about her own past.

KAGEROU DAZE

MIN

MIN

MIN

MIN (BUZZ)

MIN

MIN

MIN

68 >> RED III

MIN

...
MASTER...

...DO YOU REMEMBER THE FIRST DAY WE MET?

IT WAS A TOTAL COINCI-DENCE...

...ME COMING TO YOUR PLACE.

...I SENT E-MAILS TO HUNDREDS OF ADDRESSES IN DESPERATION... AND I FOUND YOU.

...REALIZING I WAS LOCKED INSIDE THE NET...

HAVING THIS BODY...

BUT TO TELL THE TRUTH, WHEN I STILL HAD A "REAL" BODY...

...I DIDN'T LIVE MUCH DIFFERENTLY MYSELF FOR A TIME.

I DIDN'T GO TO SCHOOL MUCH, PLAYED VIDEO GAMES ALL DAY...

I WAS REALLY SURPRISED WHEN I SAW YOUR ROOM FOR THE FIRST TIME.

LIKE, "WHOA, IT'S FILTHY! I TOTALLY CAME TO THE WRONG PLACE!"

SO...

...I DUNNO, MAYBE I FEEL SOME SYMPATHY.

I WAS NEVER TOO HEALTHY, BUT I STILL CARRIED ON LIKE THAT...

...SO I WAS IN AND OUT OF THE HOSPITAL A LOT.

I DIDN'T HAVE FRIENDS OR ANYTHING.

IT WAS A REALLY ROUGH WAY TO LIVE, YOU KNOW?

WHEN I FIRST MET YOU, MASTER...

...YOU REMINDED ME A LOT OF THE OLD ME.

PLUS...

...WHEN IT COMES TO LOSING A FRIEND YOU HOLD DEAR...

...I KNOW ALL TOO WELL HOW THAT FEELS.

PI'A (FREEZE)

...I GUESS I NEVER REALLY TALKED ABOUT HIM, HUH?

...YOU KNOW?

ABOUT HIM?

WELL, NO.

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM, NOT REALLY.

I GUESS YOU COULD SAY I WAS KIND OF RUNNING AWAY...

...FROM CON-FRONTING THAT.

ON THE DAY HARUKA DIED...

...I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM.

I REALIZED I HADN'T PICKED UP ON A SINGLE THING ABOUT HIM...

...AND IT JUST MADE MY MIND BLANK OUT.

IT'S FINE.

I'M NOT LOOKING FOR YOUR PITY.

I DID THIS TO MYSELF.

I THINK I MUST HAVE REALLY LIKED HIM.

I...

SEEING YOU GET ALONG WITH HARUKA, MASTER...

...IT WAS LIKE, "I DON'T EVEN NEED TO BE HERE."

BUT I DECIDED I COULDN'T TELL HIM, SO INSTEAD I ENDED UP AVOIDING HIM ALTOGETHER.

BUT...

...GOD HAS SOME FUNNY IDEAS, DOESN'T HE?

SO RIGHT UP TO THE VERY END...

...I KEPT RUNNING FROM ALL THE HARD STUFF...AND HERE'S THE RESULT.

...I WAS A TOTAL IDIOT, I SWEAR.

I THOUGHT I'D TOSSED AWAY MY FUTURE...

...BUT JUST FOR A LAUGH, HE HANDED IT RIGHT BACK TO ME ANYWAY.

RUNNING INTO YOU, MASTER, DOING ALL THIS CRAZY STUFF EVERY DAY...

KIRA

KIRA (TWINKLE)

MAKING MY FIRST GIRL-FRIEND IN MY LIFE...

鎖国

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR SISTER...

IT WAS ALWAYS SO SCARY TO ME.

...THE MORE I FELT THAT I DIDN'T DESERVE IT.

THE MORE FUN IT SEEMED TO ME...

I THINK RIGHT TO THE VERY END...

...HARUKA WANTED TO KEEP ON LIVING ALONGSIDE HIS FRIENDS.

TAKING HIS PLACE.

I FELT LIKE I HAD TO BECOME YOUR FRIEND INSTEAD.

THAT'S WHY I WAS BY YOUR SIDE.

I THREW EVERYTHING AWAY, BUT THERE I WAS, LIVING OUT WHAT HE COULD ONLY HOPE FOR.

YOU CAN'T GET MORE UNFAIR THAN THAT.

...I...

I MEAN, I DON'T DESERVE THIS.

BUT...

BECOMING FRIENDS WITH YOU...

...I...

...I FEEL LIKE THAT REALLY SAVED ME.

SO...

...I THINK I CAN SAFELY SAY...

...MY "WISH" WAS GRANTED LONG AGO.

AND I COULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT WITHOUT YOU.

I WAS ABLE TO FIND SOME REAL MEANING...

...IN A LIFE SPENT CONSTANTLY RUNNING AWAY.

I KNOW THAT YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN CRITICAL OF ME, MASTER.

BUT...

...YOU'RE KINDER THAN JUST ABOUT ANYONE.

SO MUCH SO, YOU CAN BE SOMEONE'S SALVATION.

GU COLENCIO

AND I THINK...

...THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE WHO ONLY YOU CAN RESCUE.

SO—

...ME TOO.

I...

...WAS SAVED BY YOU TOO.

I'M...I'M SO GLAD I MET YOU...

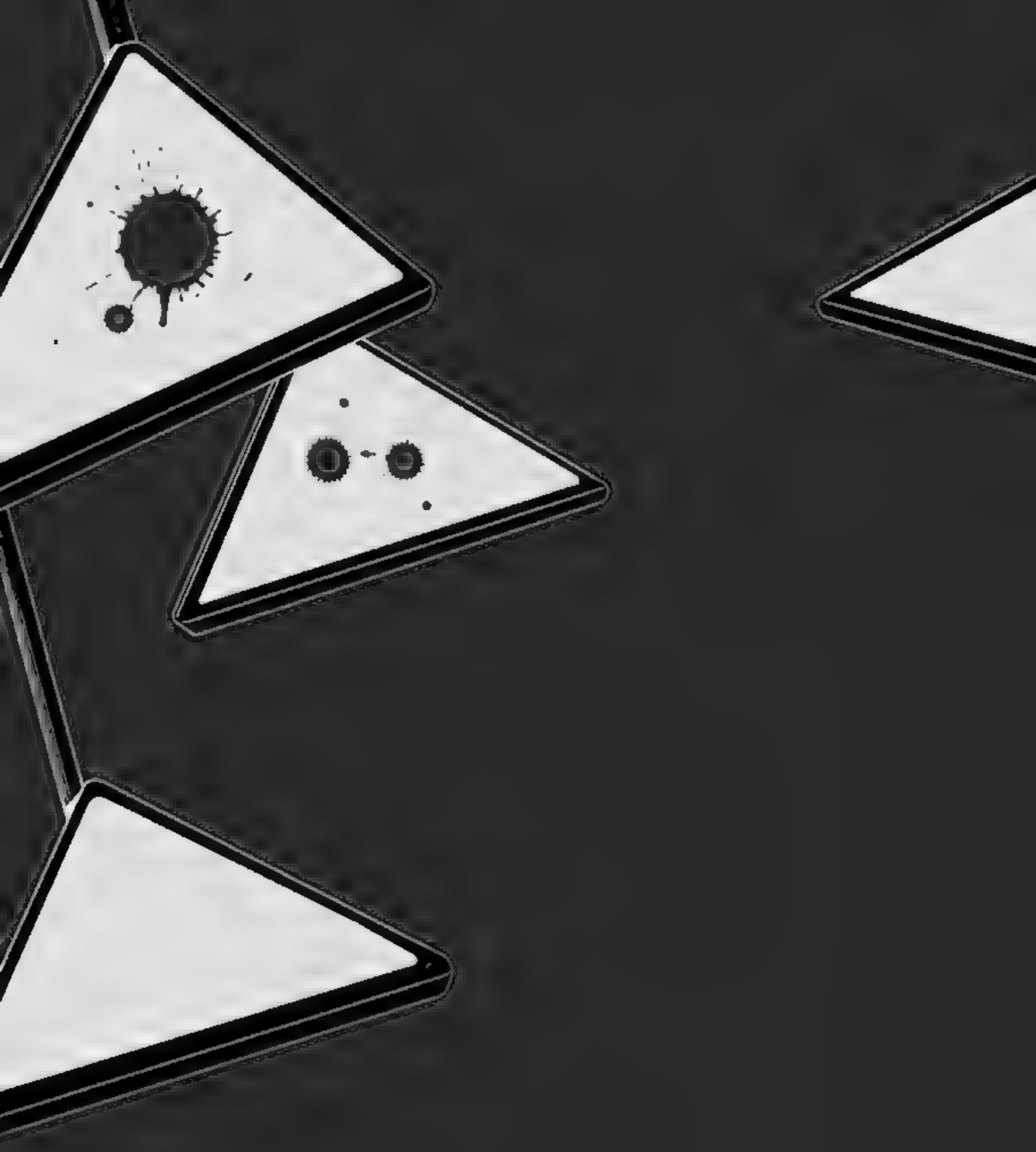
...WHAT AN HONOR.

IT'S BEEN A LOT OF FUN...

TO ME...

...YOU'RE THE GREATEST "MASTER" I COULD EVER HAVE.

...SORRY I TOOK SO LONG.



61 >> RED IV

...I ALWAYS LONGED FOR THESE.

ALL PICTURED IN THESE STORYBOOKS, AS IF THEY WERE THE MOST OBVIOUS THING.

THIS PERFECTLY NORMAL THING...

...I ALWAYS LONGED FOR THAT.

FOR EXAMPLE, THIS HAPPI-NESS.

FOR EXAMPLE, THESE "SMILES."

FOR EXAMPLE, THESE FRIENDS.

BUT...

...WOULD NEVER HAVE A FUTURE LIKE THAT IN STORE FOR ME.

I WAS SURE THE WORLD ...

...ALL THOSE "NORMAL" THINGS...

...WERE THE HARDEST.

BUT I STILL HELD OUT HOPE.

IF I'D...

...NEVER HOPED FOR FRIENDS OF MY OWN...

...I'M SURE EVERYONE COULD'VE STAYED HAPPY.

...MAKE MARIE INTO A MEDUSA?

IF MARIE GOES FULL MEDUSA...

...THAT'LL CREATE A SITUATION WHERE ALL OF US WITH ABILITIES WILL BE GATHERED TO HER, WON'T IT?

HMM.

AIN'T THAT KINDA PUTTING THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE?

I'M NOT ASKING YOU ALL TO THROW AWAY YOUR LIVES, NO.

I'VE BEEN "FOCUSING" ON HER SINCE BEFORE WE CAME HERE...

THAT'S, LIKE, EXACTLY WHAT THE ENEMY WANTS...

KILLING OURSELVES OFF BEFORE WE DO ANYTHING ABOUT OUR FOE IS PRETTY CRAZY, I THINK.

THAT GIRL, MARIE, SUCKS UP ALL THE ABILITIES OF THE DEAD, DOESN'T SHE?

...I'M GUESSING YOU'RE FIGURING ...

...WITH THE ORIGINAL AND THREE MORE, SHE'LL AT LEAST LOOK THE PART, RIGHT?

SHE NEEDS TEN ABILITIES TO BE COMPLETE, BUT...

BUT...

...I THINK THAT'S THE ONLY WAY WE CAN HOPE TO CONTROL "CLEARING."

I KNOW IT'S A DO-OR-DIE STRATEGY.

NICE AND EASY TO FOLLOW.

I LIKE THAT IDEA.

HEY...

...HANG ON A SECOND.

I DON'T WANT TSUBOMI AND THE OTHERS ...

...TO HAVE DIED FOR NOTHING.

IF...

...IF MARIE GOES FULL MEDUSA...

...WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN TO HER THEN...?

KOU-SUKE...

HOW SHOULD WE KNOW?

BUT THAT'S...

BESIDES, WE'RE NOT ASKING YOU.

THIS DECISION ...

...IS HERS.

...YOU'RE ANGRY AT ME, AREN'T YOU?

...MAYBE NONE OF THESE TERRIBLE THINGS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED TO YOU.
IF I'D NEVER COME INTO YOUR LIFE...

YES...

...YOU TOO.

IT'S FINE. YOU CAN BE MAD AT ME.

BECAUSE I WANTED MORE...

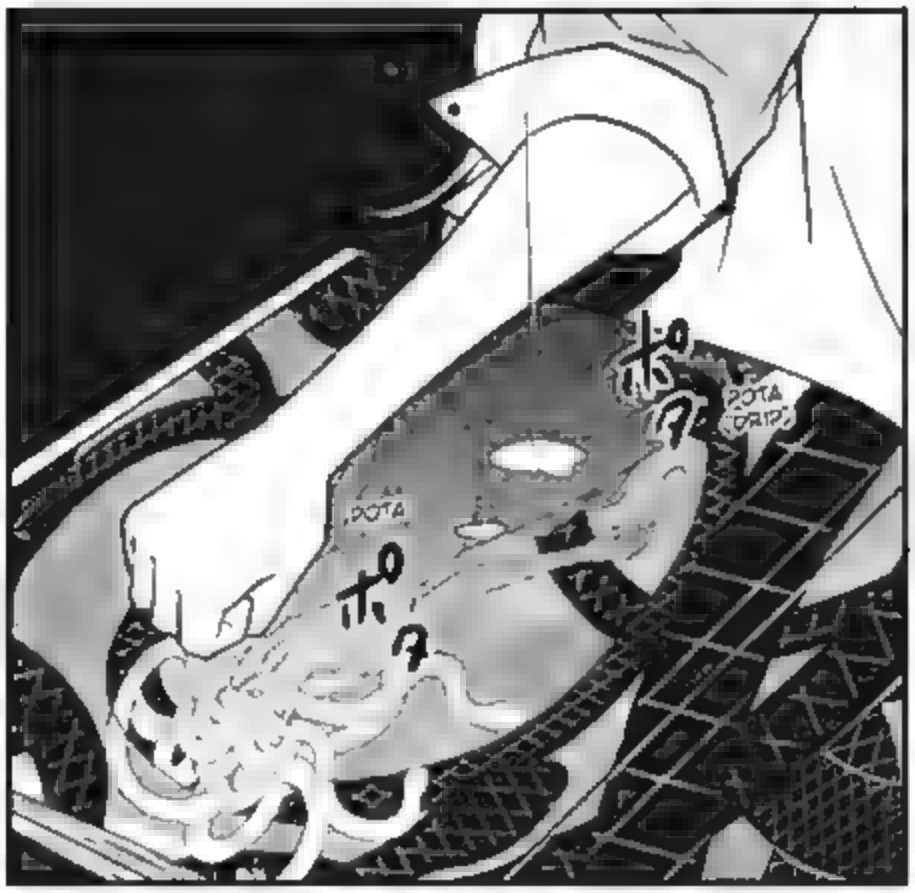
...EVERY-THING GOT MORE AND MORE MESSED UP.

I'M NOT LIKE ANY OF YOU.

I'M A MONSTER. I SHOULD NEVER BE ALLOWED OUTSIDE.

AND YET...

AND YET I TRIED TO BE YOUR FRIEND.


DOTA
DOTA
DOTA

BUT...
...YOU KNOW...

ALL I WANTED WAS TO BE NORMAL...
I CAN'T STAND IT...
I JUST CAN'T STAND IT...!
...I...
I DON'T WANT TO THINK IT WAS A MISTAKE ...!

WE HAVEN'T BECOME FRIENDS AT ALL YET.

I'VE MET ALL OF YOU...

...BUT WE HAVEN'T TALKED NEARLY ENOUGH.

...YOU'RE RIGHT.

YEAH.

I THINK THE EXACT SAME THING.

THAT'S WHY...

...WE HAVE TO STEP UP...

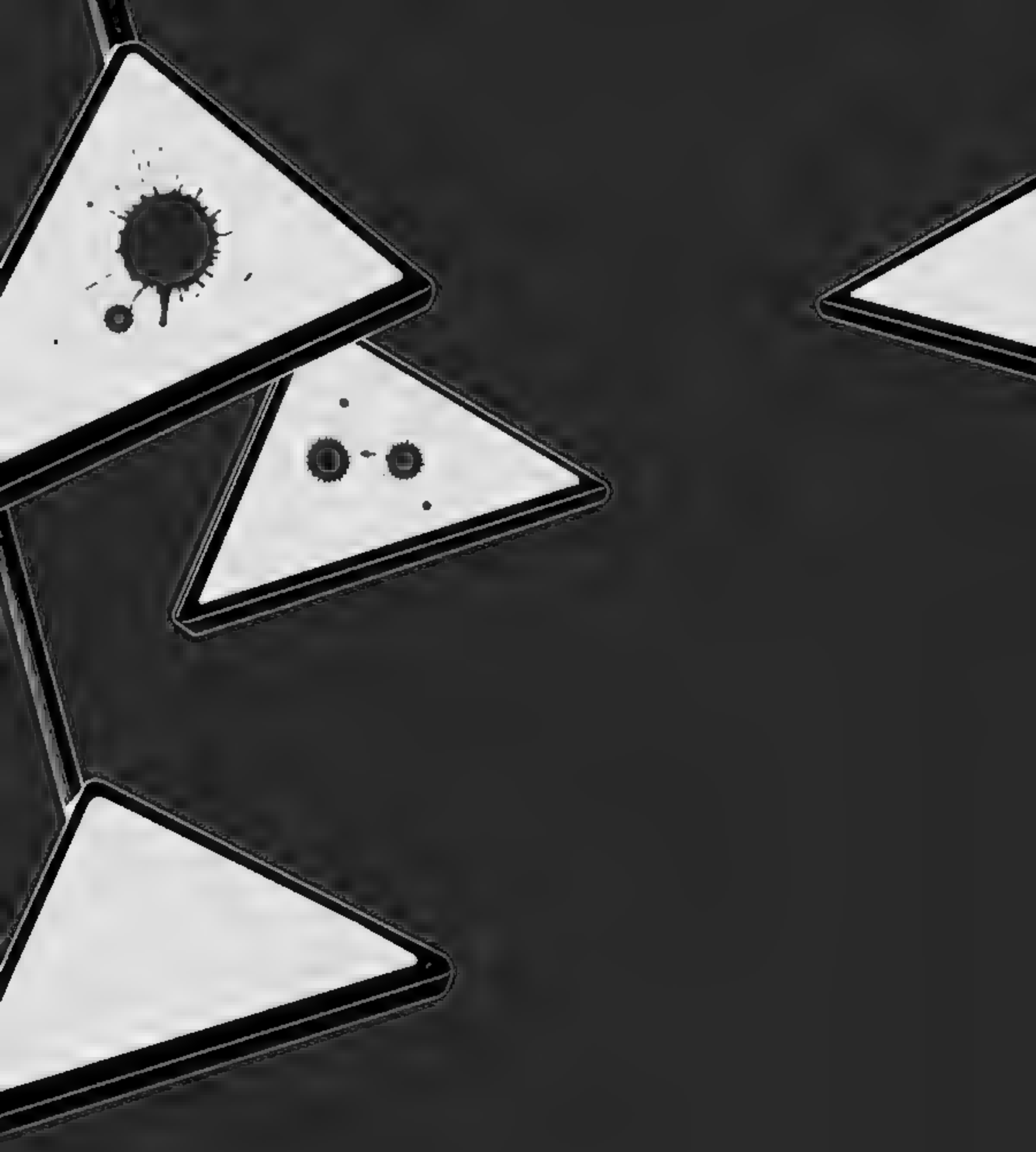
...AND RETAKE OUR FUTURES.

...
HOW DO YOU FEEL
...

..."PRIN-CESS"?

...
RIGHT.

I THINK I CAN DO MY BEST.



...RED.

62 >> NO TITLE

...AT THE DARK, DEPRESSING WORLD LAID OUT BEFORE IT.

... UNBEAR-ABLY FORLORN ...

THAT COLOR LOOKED ON...

IN THAT VAGUE DARKNESS, EVEN IT COULDN'T TELL...

...WHETHER IT REALLY EXISTED IN THERE.

THERE WAS NO END TO IT.

NO WAY TO QUANTIFY IT.

STILL, THOSE RED EYES JUST KEPT STARING.

...TO CONFIRM ITS EXIS-TENCE.

THAT WAS THE ONE THING IT HAD...

THAT WAS...

...IT'S ONLY HOPE.

...NO WONDER THIS WORLD WE MADE IS SO IRKSOME.

THESE PEOPLE, SPREADING THEIR GREED WHEREVER THEY GO...

THIS MUDDY, DIRT-STAINED SKY...

THIS DISGUSTING, GLITTERING TOWN...

GA (GRAB)

YOU AGREE, DON'T YOU...

...MY BROTH-ER?

IT'S ALL SO FOOLISH...

...AND SO LOVELY.

...I TOLD YOU, YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME.

MUSHI (SQUEEZE)

MUSHI

AND NOW THAT I'M IN THIS HEAD...

...YOU'RE NO LONGER CALLING THE SHOTS.

YOUR POWER ENABLES YOU TO BUILD THE BODY THAT THE HOST DESIRES.

BACHI (SNAP)

GUGU (CLENCH)

I JUST WANT TO TALK A LITTLE... YOU KNOW, BROTHER TO BROTHER.

SO CUT IT OUT WITH THIS NONSENSE, OKAY?

IT'S SO RIDICULOUS.

...TALK ABOUT A SELFISH THING TO DO.

GICHI OKURIKO

YOU WERE PUT AMONG HUMANS...

YOU DEVELOPED A SENSE OF SELF THAT NEVER SHOULD HAVE FORMED—NOT WITH HOW YOUR ABILITY WORKS.

AND NOW YOU TALK OF "FRIENDS"...

...AND MANKIND IS MY HUNTING GROUND.

WHAT I SEEK IS PREY...

...REMEMBER THE LONG-HELD DESIRE OF THE MASTER WHO GAVE BIRTH TO US.

BUT NOW YOU'VE DELUDED YOURSELF INTO THINKING YOU HAVE A FUTURE WITH ALL OF THEM...

YOU'VE STAINED YOURSELF IN VULGAR SHADES.

"AWAKENING"
...

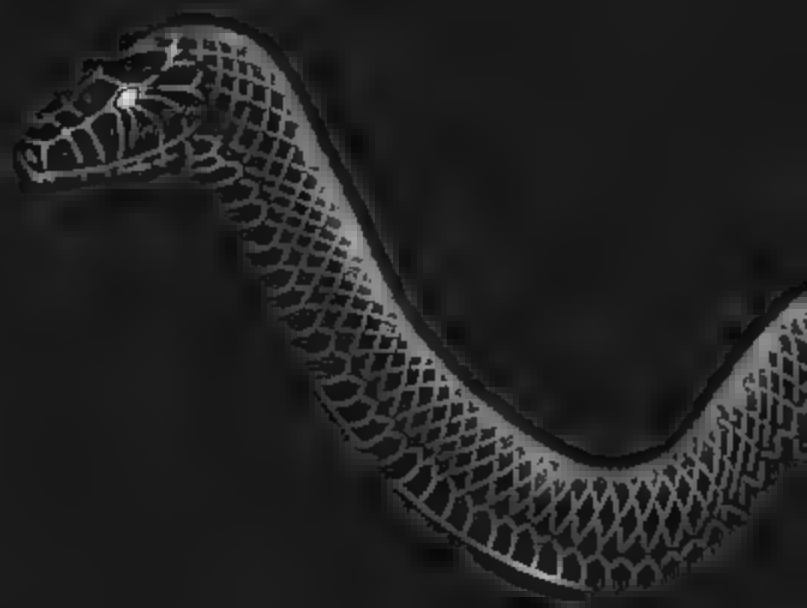
YES...

ONCE, THIS WHOLE WORLD ...

...WAS LOCKED IN DARK-NESS.

THE TRUE DESIRES...

...OF THE MASTER WHO CREATED THE WORLD.



A LONG NIGHT IN THE BLACK, NOT A SINGLE RAY OF LIGHT.

THERE WAS NO END TO IT.

NOTHING TO QUANTIFY IT.

ONLY THAT RED, NOBLE PRES-ENCE...

...

"EXISTED" THERE.

THAT WAS THE ESSENCE OF THIS WORLD.

....BUT THEN.THE MASTER HAD A DESIRE.

...AND GAVE FORM TO THE "WORLD"...

...WHICH ONLY EXISTED AS A CONCEPT.

SHE CREATED THE SNAKE POWERS ...

...AR-RANGED EVERY-THING IN A CERTAIN ORDER...

...IN AN EFFORT TO DISCOVER HER OWN TRUE NATURE.

SHE PLACED HERSELF WITHIN THIS WORLD...

AND I, AS ONE PART OF THOSE SNAKE POWERS...

...STAYED NESTLED CLOSE TO MY MASTER.

SHE WATCHED THE WORLD AS IT CHANGED, EVER MORE RAPIDLY...

I LOOKED ON AS THAT DESIRE...

...TOOK THE COURSE THAT IT DID.

"I WANT TO KNOW...

...WHAT I AM."

...AND SO I STAYED WITH HER.

I HOPED ONLY TO FULFILL MY MASTER'S DESIRE...

AND SOME-WHERE ALONG THE LINE, MY MASTER LOST HER WAY.

MANKIND.

HER ENCOUNTER WITH THEM...

...MADE HER FORGET HER DESIRE TO KNOW HERSELF.

THE WORLD.

HUMANS.

THEY WERE NOTHING MORE THAN SURFACES CREATED TO REFLECT MY MASTER'S FORM.

IT WAS PURE INSANITY.

AND SHE SACRIFICED HERSELF...

BUT SHE WAS MOVED BY THEM.

SHE FELT FOR THEM.

AHH...

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HER FORGOTTEN DESIRE?

AND TO ME, THE SERVANT SHE HAS FORGOTTEN JUST AS MUCH?

...IF I DISAPPEAR, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU?

AH...

AHH.

I SEE...

IT'S A SIMPLE TALE INDEED.

THIS WORLD...

...WAS NEVER SUITABLE FOR REFLECTING MY MASTER'S FORM.

IN THAT CASE...

...WE OUGHT TO RETURN TO WHERE WE STARTED.

EVEN IF IT MEANS YOU MUST BOW YOUR HEAD TO OTHER MASTERS.

EVEN IF IT PLUNGES YOU INTO A DEEP PIT OF DESPAIR.

...IS EVERYTHING I LIVE FOR..

...THE DESIRE THAT GAVE BIRTH TO ME...

TO FULFILL...

EVEN IF MY MASTER FORGETS ABOUT ME...

...I STILL REMEMBER HER DESIRE.

ZA CISHO

THAT'S WHY I NEED A NEW DESPAIR TO WORK WITH.

I CAN'T LET MYSELF DISAPPEAR UNTIL THAT DESIRE IS FULFILLED.

WHAT AN UNSIGHTLY STATE TO SEE MY BROTHER IN.

...I DOUBT ANY OF YOUR "SELF" REMAINS NOW.

FORGET ABOUT IT ALL...

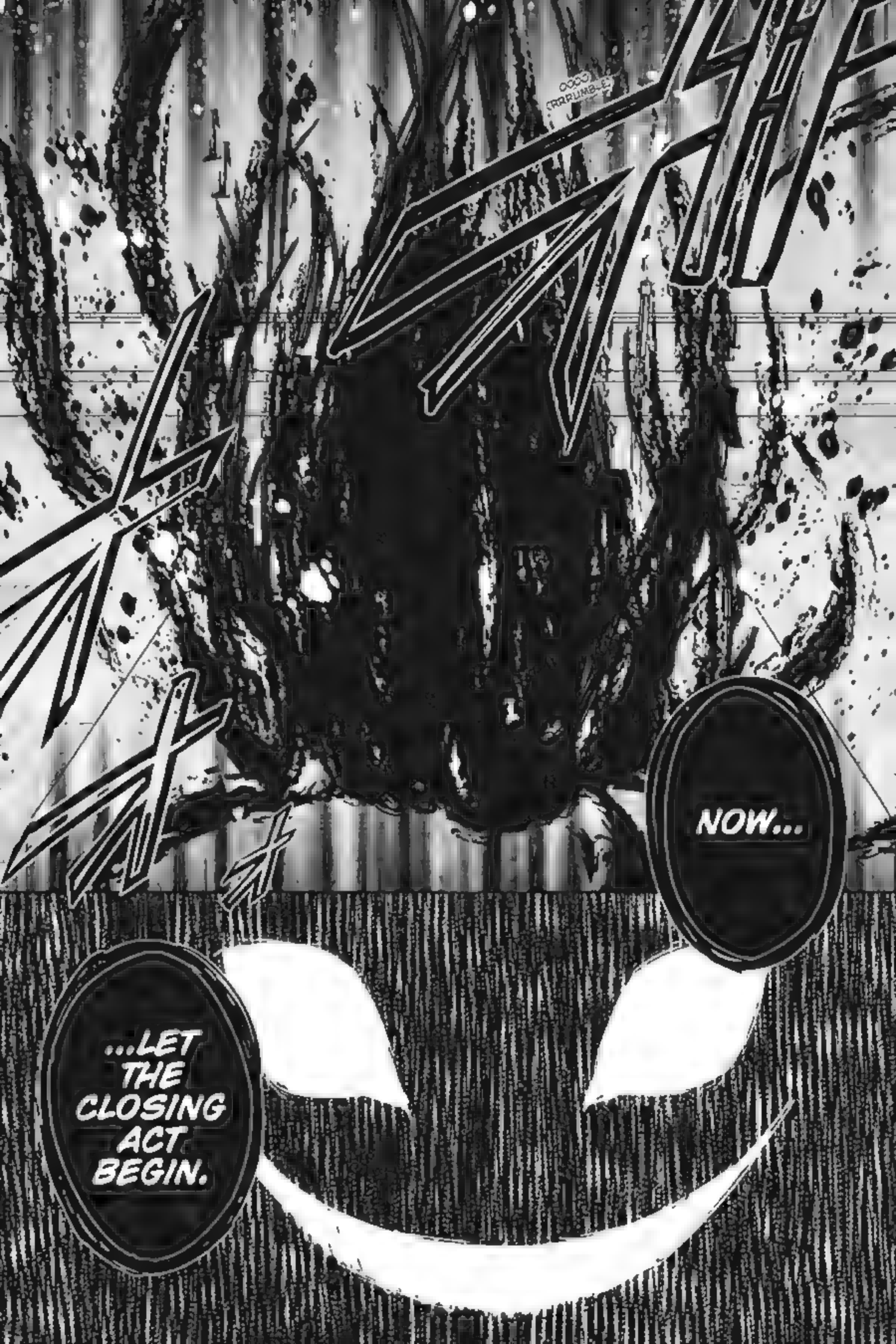
...AND SLEEP WITHIN THE TRAGEDY.

...DON'T WORRY.

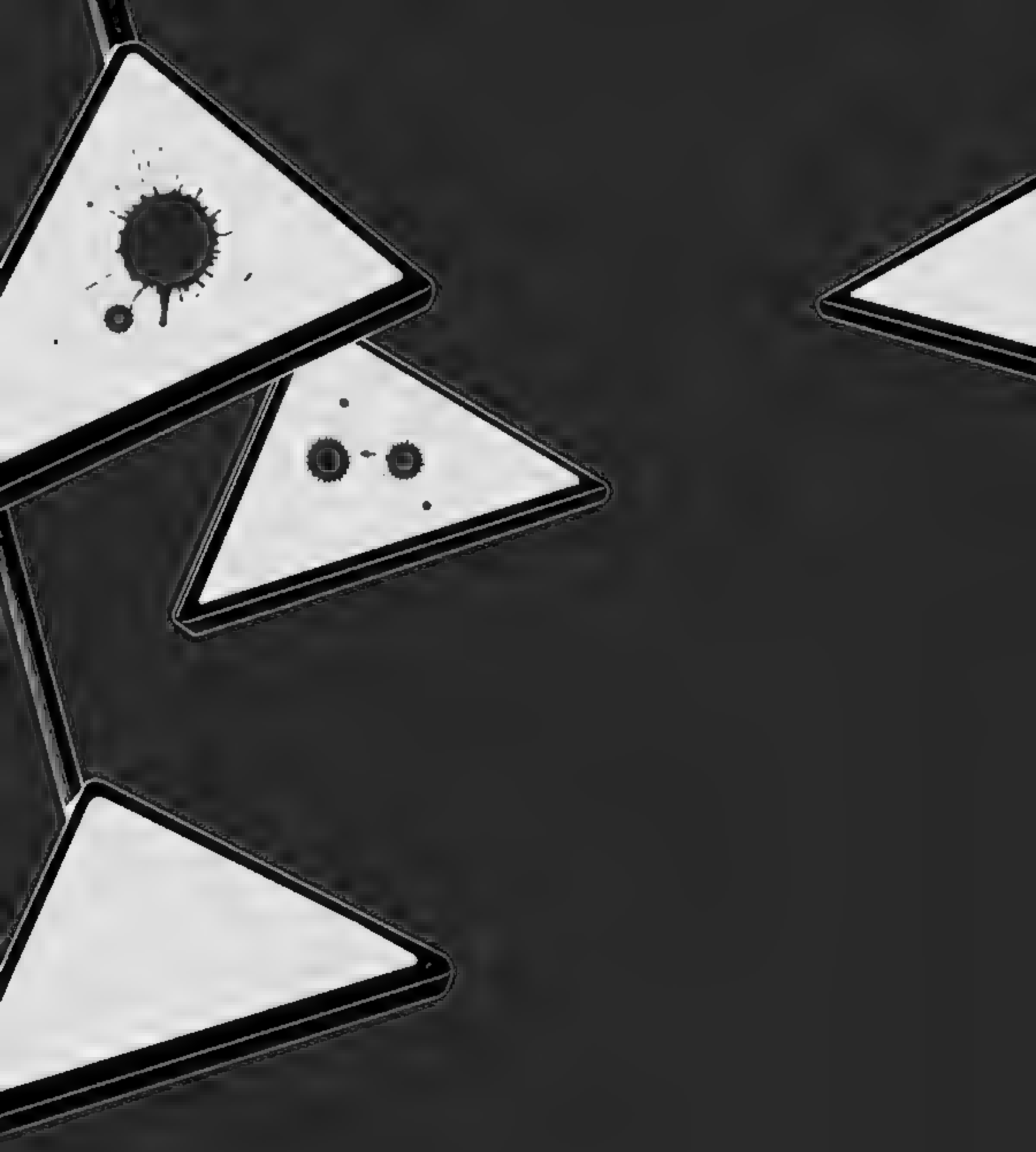
EVERY-THING WILL END SHORTLY.

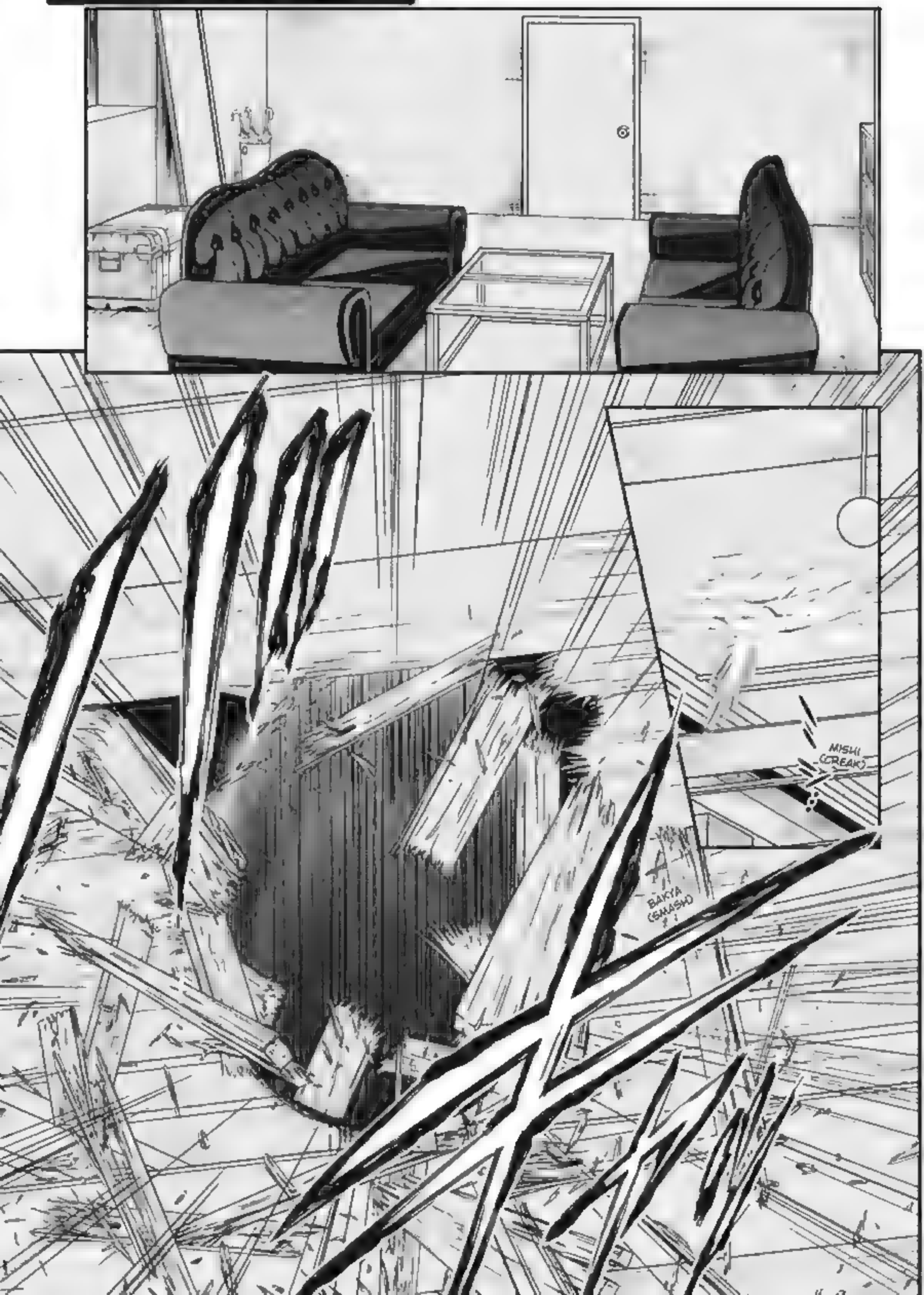
THE TWISTED HOPES YOU DREW FOR YOURSELF...

...ARE TRIVIAL WHEN FACED WITH THE END.


NOW...
...LET THE CLOSING ACT BEGIN.

THIS WORLD HAS PROVED TO BE SUCH A DISAP-POINT-MENT...
I WOULD SEE IT DESCEND INTO THE VERY WORST CONCEIVABLE DEMISE.




MISHI
(CREAK)
BAKYA
(SMASH)

BAKIN (CRACK)

SU (SHIP)

SHAN (SNIFF)

SUN

ZA (CLSHO)

...YOU USED "CONCEALING" TO ESCAPE?

NOT TOO SHABBY A PERFORMANCE.

...YOU GOOD-FOR-NOTHING FAILURES.

YOU COULD AT LEAST MAKE THIS FUN FOR ME.

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

SEVERAL HOURS AGO

...SHE CALLS THAT "DOING MY BEST"?

ZZZ

OOO

MARIE !!

BATAAN (SLAM)

FURA (SWAY)

I THINK I CAN—

WHAT A TOTAL PRINCESS.

AFTER THAT SPURT OF PASSION, SHE PASSES OUT FOR A NAP?

I DON'T THINK SHE'S IN PAIN...

...BUT WHAT'S UP WITH HER?

SHE LOOKS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE TOO.

IS SHE ON THE CUSP OF BECOMING A MEDUSA?

YEAH...

I THINK MARIE SAID THAT BECAUSE SHE'S NOTICED IT TOO.

SHE'S DEFINITELY TAKEN IN OTHER ABILITIES NOW, I BET.

I THINK WHAT SHE JUST TOLD US...

...WAS PURE MARIE, THROUGH AND THROUGH.

THE QUESTION IS, WILL MARIE STAY "MARIE" FOR US...?

IF THIS GIRL SAYS SHE'LL DO HER BEST...

...THEN I WANNA FIGHT AT HER SIDE.

S-STOP MAKING FUN OF ME!

BOY, THAT SURE AIN'T LIKE YOU.

OUR PRINCESS IS TRANSFORM-ING.

THEN IF WE'RE IN AGREEMENT, IT'S TIME TO START MOVING.

WE'RE HARDLY SAFE SITTING AROUND HERE.

WELL...

...ALL RIGHT. FINE.

PIIIPOON (DING-DONG)

Y-YEAH.

SO FIRST—

BIKU (FLINCH)

WHO...

WHO'S THAT?

DON'T TELL ME IT'S HIM...

わた WATA (PANIC)

WHAT KIND OF ENEMY RINGS THE DOORBELL BEFORE COMING IN!?

わた WATA

BUT WHAT IF IT IS HIM...?

MARIE! MARIE, GET UP!

わた WATA

NNH...

BIKU

BIKU CTWITCH

UH, YOU SURE?

S-SURE I'M SURE!

I'LL JUST PUNCH 'IM IF I NEED TO!

WITH THOSE SPINDLY ARMS OF YOURS?

I...

I'LL ANSWER IT!

DON (BOOM)

GACHA (KACHAK)

ガチャ…

YO.

WHAA ...!?

HAH!

AH!

UH...

HEY! ONEE-CHAN!

HEY, WHO IS IT!?

BATAN (SLAM)

IT'S SAFE!

JUST ONE SEC, OKAY?

KII (CREAK)

YEAH, THANKS TO YOU...

SOUNDS LIKE...

...YOU MADE UP WITH YOUR BROTHER.

AH...

I WAS DOING SOME INVESTIGAT-ING...

...AND HAPPENED TO SEE YOU GO IN HERE.

BUT HOW DID YOU FIND THIS PLACE!?

YOU JUST "HAPPENED TO"? WHAT'RE YOU...!?

UGH, THIS HEAT IS KILLING ME.

BASA (FLAP)

BASA!

CAN I COME INSIDE?

N-

NO!

AH!

KYOTON (STARE)

...ええと...

I...I'M SORRY...

...I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING FOR YOUR SISTER.

I KNOW YOU FEEL LIKE YOU NEED TO TAKE ACTION...

...BUT...

...I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD BE INVOLVED ANY FURTHER.

I DON'T KNOW IF WE'LL SURVIVE...

WE HAVE NO CHANCE OF WINNING, AT ANY RATE.

SO—

BEFORE TOO LONG...

...WE'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO FIGHT THAT GUY.

(GOSO) (RUSTLE)

IF I WERE...

...I'D BE IGNORING HER DESIRE TO KEEP HER FRIENDS SAFE.

MY SISTER...

...ISN'T WHO I'M CONCERNED WITH RIGHT NOW.

PLUS...

(SSW) (SSW)

SHE SAID I HAD THE POWER TO "BE SOMEONE'S SALVATION."

...WHEN I WAS HESITANT EARLIER, MY FRIEND MADE ME REALIZE...

SO...

...I THOUGHT ABOUT IT.

ABOUT WHO I COULD HELP OUT.

I COULDN'T EVEN SAVE MY FAMILY. WHO COULD I EVER SAVE?

PRETTY CRAZY THING TO SAY, ISN'T IT?

.....

YOU... YOU'VE KEPT FIGHTING TO PROTECT SOMEONE.

IF I CAN SAVE ANYONE...

...IT'S GOT TO BE YOU, I THINK.

...TO FIGHT FOR YOUR SAKE.

...I'M GONNA USE WHAT LIFE I HAVE...

SO THAT'S WHY...

I'M HERE...

...BECAUSE I WANT TO HELP YOU OUT.

BUT...

BUT THAT'S JUST CRAZY!

DAAAH!

IT'S SO DAMN HOT!!

BIKU (FLINCH)

YOU DON'T HAVE AN ABILITY OR ANYTHING...

I CAN'T PAY YOU BACK FOR ANY OF YOUR HELP...

BAN (SLAM)

I CAN'T TAKE THIS!

I'M COMING IN!

AH! WAIT A...

HUH?
WHA?
OH! MOMO'S BROTHER!
YOU...
...AND FROM NOW ON, I'M PART OF YOUR GROUP.
MY NAME'S SHINTARO KISARAGI ...
WAH!
MARIE...
HUH!?
WHERE'D THAT COME FROM!?

IT'S GOOD TO MEET YOU.

YEAH.

YOU TOO, I GUESS.

...WHOA, WHAT A MESS.

WHO DOES THIS TO A PERSON'S HOUSE, HUH?

NO GOING BACK HOME NOW, HUH...?

I SEE. HE MUST'VE CHANGED HIS APPEAR-ANCE.

NO WONDER WE COULDN'T FIND HIM.

GUYS...

...YOU READY FOR THIS?

...SHIN-TARO.

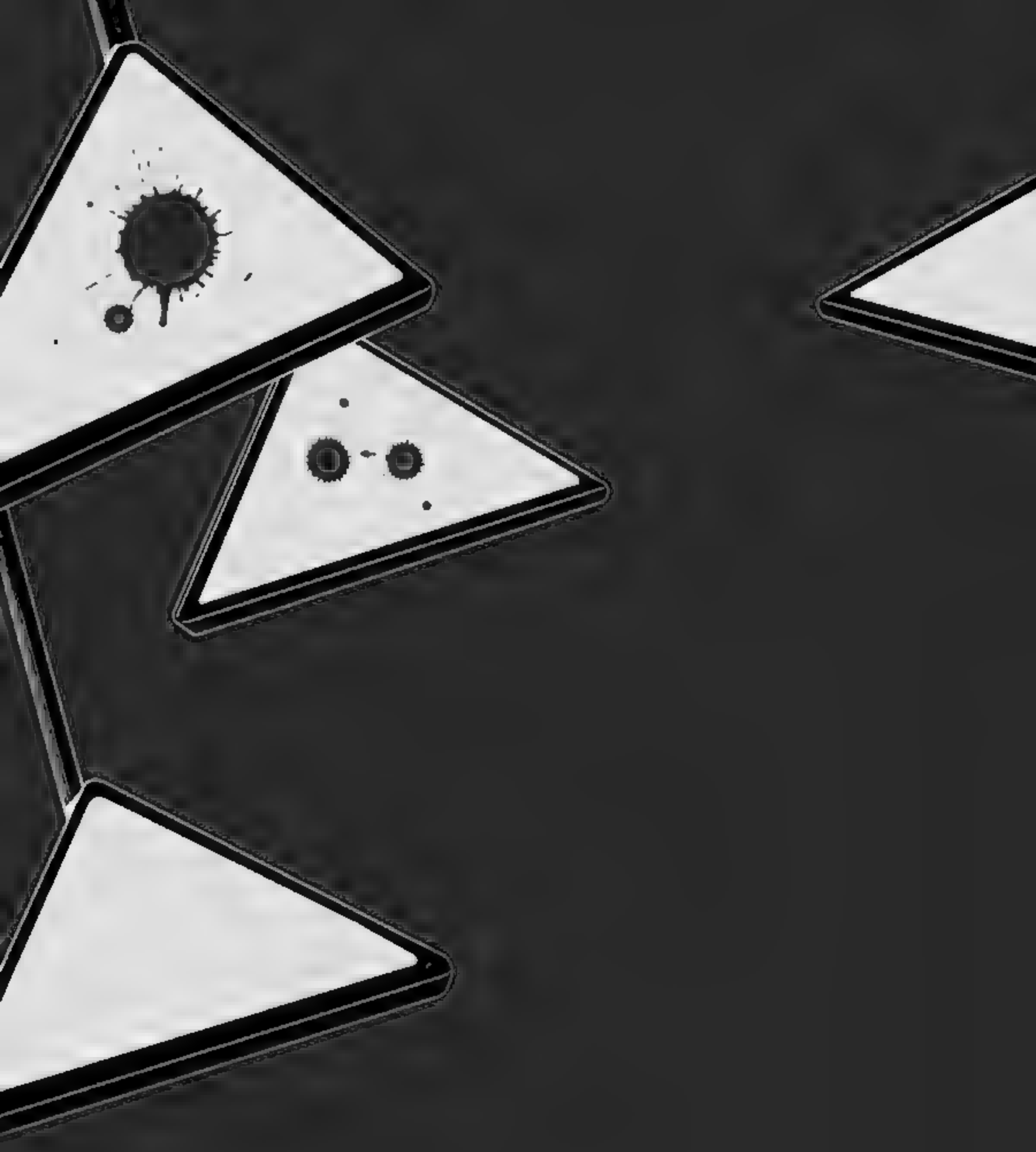
...YEAH.

OUR ONLY GOAL RIGHT NOW...

...SHOULD BE NOT GIVING UP ON THE FUTURE, NO MATTER WHAT!

LET'S TEACH THAT DUDE A LESSON HE'LL NEVER FORGET.

KAGEROU DAZE



...YOU'RE THE "CLEARING" SNAKE?

...WELL, WELL.

IT IS AN HONOR TO MEET YOU...

...MY BELOVED MASTER.

SILENCE.

DETACHING YOUR SPIRIT LIKE THAT...

IT APPEARS TO BE DERIVED FROM "AWAKENING," I BELIEVE...

I HAD NO IDEA YOU ALREADY HAD THAT IN HAND...

I'M ASKING THE QUES-TIONS...

...AND YOU'RE ANSWER-ING THEM.

A THOU-SAND PARDONS.

YES...

I AM INDEED THE "SNAKE" YOU SPOKE OF.

A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.

...YOU'VE GROWN INTO A SPLENDID WOMAN.

THIS IS QUITE A SURPRISE, THOUGH.

I CAME HERE IN ORDER TO MEET YOU...

...ONLY TO BE GREETED BY A PROJECTED IMAGE.

SO YOU LEFT ONLY YOUR PRESENCE IN THIS PLACE...

...AND USED "DRAWING" TO ATTRACT MY ATTENTION, DID YOU?

BUT WHY?

TAKING SUCH PAINS TO SET UP THIS MEETING...

I'M CERTAIN THIS IS NOT THE FIRST YOU'VE LEARNED OF ME?

MY, ANOTHER SUR—

YOU...

THERE'S SOMETHING I WANTED TO ASK YOU DIRECTLY.

...ARE TRYING TO REWIND THE WORLD, AREN'T YOU?

HOW...DID YOU...?

ALL THE SNAKES EXIST TO FULFILL THEIR MASTER'S DESIRES.

OUR ABILITIES WERE CRAFTED TO HELP MAKE OUR DREAMS COME TRUE.

IT WAS SHOWN TO ME.

"FAVORING"'S MEMORY TRANSFER...!

BUT EVEN AFTER YOU CREATED THE ENDLESS WORLD—THE "KAGEROU DAZE"...

EVEN AFTER FULFILLING AZAMI'S ONE WISH, YOU'VE REMAINED ALIVE, SLIPPING INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S BODIES.

...ALMOST AS IF YOU HAVE ANOTHER PURPOSE IN MIND.

THE STRONGEST OF AZAMI'S DESIRES...

...CONCEIVED IN THE DEEPEST RECESSES OF HER MIND.

...WAS SOMETHING HOPED FOR EVEN BEFORE AZAMI THOUGHT OF HER "ENDLESS WORLD."

IF SO...

...THE REAL DESIRE YOU'RE LIVING OFF OF...

SHE WANTED TO KNOW...

...EXACTLY WHAT SHE WAS.

BUT IN YOUR EYES...

...IT WAS AS IF THE DESIRE THAT HAD GIVEN YOUR LIFE MEANING WAS BEING THROWN AWAY.

INSIDE HER MEMORIES...

...AZAMI SAID MEETING PEOPLE MADE HER NOT CARE WHO SHE WAS ANY LONGER.

YOU PUT THE DESIRE THAT ESTABLISHED YOU AHEAD OF THE WILL OF YOUR MASTER.

YOU WERE AFRAID.

AFRAID YOU'D LOSE YOURSELF AS THAT DESIRE FADED.

...SO YOU COULD DENY HER THIS WORLD, WHICH CLOUDED HER DESIRES SO MUCH...

YOU TAUGHT AZAMI HOW TO CREATE THE KAGEROU DAZE...

NOW YOU'RE TRYING TO USE ME BY AWAKENING MY MEDUSA SELF.

YOU WANT TO TAKE THIS WORLD THAT CHANGED AZAMI FOR GOOD...

...AND MAKE IT SO IT NEVER EXISTED.

...WELL.

I AM IM-
PRESSED
...

...YOU'VE MADE IT THAT FAR ALONG.

...AND LOOK AT HOW MUCH YOU'VE MATURED.

...A FOOL UNABLE TO FULLY CARRY OUT HER OWN ROLE...

BORN INTO A MERE REFLECTION OF MY MASTER'S WORLD...

TRULY ...

...IT WILL BE EXCITING TO BREAK YOU.

THE "DESIRE" OF MY TRUE MASTER...

...IS THE ESSENCE, THE ONLY SUPREME TRUTH TO THIS WORLD.

BESIDE IT, ALL ELSE IN THIS WORLD...

...IS GARBAGE BY COMPARISON.

YES!

YES...

IT IS JUST AS YOU SAY.

HERE IS THE ANSWER:

DO IT OVER AGAIN!

ALL OF IT!

WHAT VALUE COULD THERE BE IN SOMETHING LIKE THAT CONTINUING TO EXIST?

JUST...

...A SANDBOX UNWORTHY OF VALIDATING MY MASTER'S EXISTENCE.

YOU MAY THINK YOU CAN RUN FROM IT...

...BUT ALL YOU'VE DONE IS DELAY ME.

THIS WORLD...

THIS SCRIPT CAN NO LONGER BE REWRITTEN!

...WILL BE REBORN INTO ITS NEXT INCARNA-TION!!

...WHAT WOULD BE THE POINT OF HIDING ANYTHING NOW?

AND THAT'S WHY...

...MY MOTHER...

...AND EVERYONE ELSE WAS MADE TO ENDURE ALL THEY DID?

.....

IS THAT...

IS THAT TRULY YOUR GOAL?

WELL?

WHAT IF IT WAS?

THEN I SWEAR...

...I'LL NEVER ...

...LET IT PASS !!

BUWA (BLOCKED)

EVEN IF IT WAS MADE BY SOMEONE...

...THIS WORLD WILL NEVER YIELD TO YOU.

BIRI

BIRI (RATTLE)

BIRI

PISHI (CRACK)

...WILL NEVER LOSE TO SOMEONE LIKE YOU.

THE PEOPLE I BELIEVE IN...

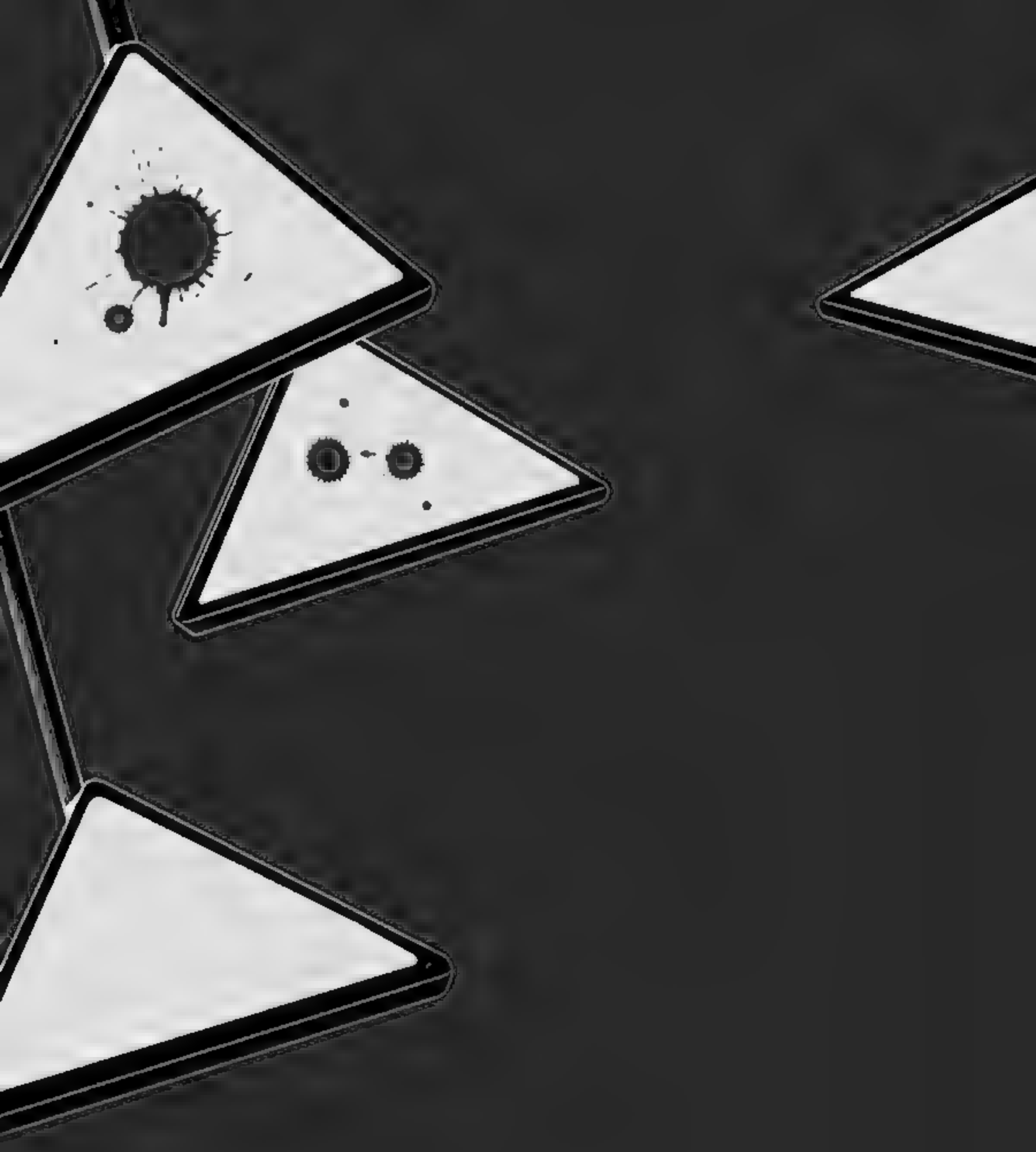
GU (CLENCHED)

AND THIS WORLD I'VE COME TO LOVE...!

WILL NEVER ...

...GIVE UP ON ITS OWN FUTURE !!

WE ARE READY TO FIGHT YOU.
SO COME TO ME NOW...
...SNAKE OF "CLEARING EYES."
...I USED "CONCEALING"...
...TO SHUT OFF YOUR PERCEPTION OF EVERYTHING AROUND YOU.
YOU CAN'T TAKE YOUR EYES OFF ME, CAN YOU?
THEY'RE PERMANENTLY "DRAWN" TO ME NOW...
...AND YOU CAN'T POINT YOUR THOUGHTS TOWARD ANYTHING BUT ME.
ME, RUN AWAY?
DON'T BE CRAZY.
I...
...AM EXTREMELY MAD RIGHT NOW.
TO BE CONTINUED



Thank you for picking up Volume 12 of the manga version. The comic *Kagerou Daze* is now rapidly approaching its finale. We couldn't have gotten this far without the concerted efforts of Satou-sensei and all the support we've received from you. I'd like to take my feelings of appreciation and pour all of them into the final battle. Hopefully, you'll want to stay with us to the very end.

CONGRATS ON MANGA VOLUME 12

SIDU

KAGEROU DAZE VOLUME 12!!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

MAHIRO SATOU

佐藤まひろ

I LOVE ENE-CHAN!

JIN'S ORIGINAL SCENARIO CONTINUES ...

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THE END!!

KAGEROU DAZE

NEXT

AT LONG LAST, THE NEXT VOLUME WILL BE THE

FINAL CHAPTER.

VOLUME 13

COMING SOON!!

KAGEROU DAZE

KAGEROU DAZE 12

MAHIRO SATOU
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(SHIZEN NO TEKI P)
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